



EDOM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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EDOM UNITED METHODIST WOMEN



United
Methodist
Women

Edom United Methodist Women will meet Thursday, December 6th at 11:00 a.m. We will share a potluck salad luncheon. All women of the church are invited.

Marlis Cuthbertson will bring the devotional. The program will be assembling the gift bags for our nursing home patients. There are 4 men and 4 women, for whom we are buying a week's worth (7) small gifts for each person to open one each day. These are in addition to the gifts for the Angel Tree that the entire congregation participates in.

I have purchased red tissue paper and ribbon to wrap each individual gift and place a tag with the name of a day of the week. We will then place those 7 gifts in a single gift bag to be taken to the nursing home when we take their Angel Tree gifts. If everyone brings 3 or 4 small items, we should have plenty for all the recipients.

It is also our custom to bring an unwrapped toy for the Women's Crisis Center in Tyler.

In addition, we will sign up to be hostesses or bring devotionals for the coming year.

Suzanne McDougle, President

EDOM CIVIC THEATRE

Edom Civic Theatre will host its annual Christmas party on Monday, December 3, 2012 in Terry Hall. Everyone is invited to bring a covered dish for the buffet. A short business meeting which will include the election of 2013 officers will begin at 6:30, followed by the dinner. The announcement of the 2013 season will be featured as well as musical entertainment.

In the light of faith I am strong, constant, and persevering. In the light of faith I hope. Do not allow me to faint by the way. This light, without which I should still walk in darkness, teaches me the road.

— Catherine of Siena

UNITED METHODIST MEN



The United Methodist Men's Group met on November 14th. We had 10 members present.

The covered dish supper was great as usual.

The Group enjoyed a short video on serving God and the community. During the business meeting we approved the purchase of candy for the giveaway bags for the Edom Christmas Tree lighting. Filling the bags and distributing them will be a project for the youth group. The Christmas Tree lighting will be December 1st.

The group approved an amount up to \$2000.00 for installing utilities in the proposed new annex.

The Group also elected a slate of officers for the year 2013.

Following are the officers:

Ron McDougle - President

Perry Penn - Vice President

Keith Mills - Secretary

David Diller - Treasure

Ron McDougle - President



PRAYER FOCUS

Week 1 Victims of Hurricane Sandy

Week 2 Motorcyclist

Week 3 Those facing serious illness

Week 4 Our Nation

Week 5 Those who have trespassed against us
and our trespasses.

HOUSE BLESSING AND OPEN HOUSE

David & Helen Diller have recently completed construction of their house and have invited everyone to come over for the blessing of the house and to enjoy great fellowship on December 9th from 2 to 4 pm.

A map should be available Sunday December 2nd at church.

SERVING AND CONNECTING



MINISTRY TEAM

I realize that we are getting into our busy time of the year, and it's also the time of year when a lot of us want to hibernate for the season, but now is when we need to get out there and keep vibrant and alive if nothing else to keep our spirits warm. So here are a few things going on in the community as well as the Church.

Let me start by saying a **HUGE** "thank you" to the members of this Church as well as the community as a whole for the support you have always shown for the Community Thanksgiving Dinner. On Monday, November 19th, we held our 12th Annual Community Dinner and during the course of the day, we served over 600 people, that is between those eating at the Center, as well as the to go dinners and those that I delivered at home. So as you can see, we are providing a big service to the community for those that need help, but to see the compassion and comrade of the Christian spirit there that day, was remarkable. Again, thank you from the bottom of my heart for your continued support.

Now on to the news...we are all in preparation for Advent. The Church is decorated, now all we need is some really cool weather and maybe some snow! Well it's kind of difficult to have the snow when the temperature is in the 70's, but we can hope.

The communities of Edom and Ben Wheeler are coordinating a Christmas program that everyone is requested to attend and support our Church and our members. This will be on Saturday, December 8th at 6:30 pm at the Wedding Chapel in Ben Wheeler. A special thanks goes to Pat McBride for putting this together and letting us be a part of it. We have so much going on at this time of the year, but we ask you to come and enjoy our kids and some of our members that will be performing, plus all the other talent that will be shown that night. We will have a reading of the Christmas Story while the children act it out as well as our youth singing and signing "Silent Night", we will also have some stories being read, some songs to be sung, a special poem to be shared and of course the "Big Man in Red" will be there for pictures, so come join in on the fun!

We will also be doing our "All Church Children's Christmas Party" in Terry Hall on Sunday, December 16th right after Church; **ALL** are invited to attend. The children of the Church will be decorating Terry Hall for the festivities, we ask the Church members to bring food, like a potluck dinner, but the children will be inviting members of the Church to be their guest at the dinner, so we hope you can help this to be a special dinner as we prepare for the Christmas season.

As I said, we have a lot going on, so we are in need of your help, your support and your love to make these events a success for the children of our Church and the Church as a whole. As a saying goes "what do you want God to do for you?" or should I say, "what can you and I do for God?", think about that and see what happens.

As always, we are still in need of helpers in Sunday School and driving of the van; let us know how and when you can help! Let's see how we can help each other in the fellowship of the Christian spirit and let's Minister together.

Love in Christ, **Barbie Clay, Chair – Serving and Connecting Team**

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



As we approach this time of year, the kids' eyes are all lit up with excitement! As I have stated many, many times how blessed we are by the number of children and youth we have in our Church, but as usual there is always room for growth and we are growing.

Throughout the rest of the year, we are jammed packed with activities that we are doing and some of those activities involve the Church as a whole.

First of all, on Saturday, December 8th at 6:30 pm, as a community wide event, we are coordinating a Christmas program at the Wedding Chapel in Ben Wheeler and the children, the youth and some of our own members will be performing, we hope that you come out and enjoy a night of spectacular entertainment and of course the "Big Man in Red" will be there for pictures. Please come and support the members of our Church and share in their joy.

Then on Sunday, December 16th right after Church service, we will have the "All Church Christmas Dinner" for the children and **EVERYONE** is invited to attend. It will be a potluck dinner, but the children will be decorating Terry Hall for the members of the Church. More details on this to come.

We hope that throughout the Advent and Christmas season, that each and every one of you have a blessed and safe holiday and on behalf of the Children's Ministry program, I want to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Safe New Year!

We thank all of you for the help you have provided for us to get where we are, but we are still in need of that extra help for our continued growth of the Church so that we can continue the programs we have to offer. Let us know how and where you can help.

Love in Christ,

Barbie Clay, Chair – Children's Ministry

The Grinch and Christmas

**"And the Grinch, with his Grinch-feet ice cold in the snow,
stood puzzling and puzzling, how could it be so? It came
without ribbons. It came without tags. It came without pack-
ages, boxes or bags. And he puzzled and puzzled 'till his puz-
zler was sore. Then the Grinch thought of something he had-
n't before. What if Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from
a store. What if Christmas, perhaps, means a little bit more."**

- Dr. Seuss

Christmas Bible Trivial

1. Approximately how old was Jesus when the wise men (Magi) from the east arrived with their gifts?
2. Who plotted to kill the baby Jesus?
3. When was Jesus born?
4. Which prophet foretold the birth of Jesus with these words?
- "Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."

Answers on Page 6

Merry
Christmas

FINANCIAL COMMITTEE NEWS

November 8th 2012

Members (9): Chairman Perry Penn, Treasurer Shirley Wilkins, Pastor Paul Porter, Ada Walker, Mike Human, Carol Camp, Marlis Cuthbertson, Eric Callaway, and Glenda Penn

Proverbs 21: v 13 *"He who closes his ear to the cry of the poor, will himself cry out and not be heard."*

Joel 1: v 1-3 *"The word of the Lord that came to Joel, son of Pethuel: Hear this, you aged men, give ear, all inhabitants of the land! Has such a thing happened in your days, or in the days of your fathers? Tell your children of it, and let your children tell their children, and their children another generation."*

The Finance Committee met in Terry Hall on Nov. 8th, 2012 @ 1:00 p.m. Treasurer Shirley Wilkins reviewed the Financial Report for October 31, 2012 showing the Operating Fund down \$912.21 and provided a Financial Summary Report as of November 8, 2012. In addition, the Committee reviewed 2013 Budget and discussed proposed increases or decreases for 2013. Vacation Bible School Curriculum Expense was discussed at length; a motion to fund VBS out of Youth Fund as previously done was passed, in lieu of changing VBS to a budgeted item. There were several other adjustments, primarily increases to the Media and children's budget. Shirley will prepare a finalized 2013 Budget to present to Church Council.

Thanks to a \$2000 pledge from EUMC men's group, New Education pledges and gifts have exceeded \$21,000. Our dilemma to some EUMC members is that we are not moving fast enough, to others we are taking a conservative approach. Pastor Paul pointed out we are doing "God's Will" according to His plan. Pastor Paul suggested patience, noting that it has been a very short time since congregation was approached. He reminded the Committee this will be done in God's time. He also believes EUMC is doing very good at this point in raising the funds that have been collected for the size of EUMC's congregation.

The Finance Committee noted additional pledges have been received; however, they have slowed down as it will take time for monthly pledges to accumulate. Several EUMC members have asked about using existing church funds to start the new building. We discussed the need to set a starting point regarding amount of money on hand from pledges to commence building. Pastor Paul suggested waiting until after the first of the year to set a start-point goal. After discussion by members of the committee, it was decided to wait as Pastor Paul suggested.

Perry Penn Finance Committee Chairman

All I want for Christmas.....

**I'd like a stocking made for a giant,
And a meeting house full of toys,
Then I'd go out in a happy hunt
For the poor little girls and boys;
Up the street and down the street,
And across and over the town,
I'd search and find them everyone,
Before the sun went down**

-Eugene Field

Twas The Night Before Christmas

Twas the night before Christmas, he lived all alone,
in a one bedroom house made of plaster and stone.
I had come down the chimney with presents to give
and to see just who in this home did live.
I looked all about, a strange sight I did see,
no tinsel, no presents, not even a tree.

No stocking by the mantle, just boots filled with sand,
and on the wall pictures of far distant lands.
With medals and badges, awards of all kinds,
a sobering thought came to my mind.
For this house was different, so dark and so dreary,
the home of a soldier, now I could see clearly.

The soldier lay sleeping, silent, alone,
curled up on the floor in this one bedroom home.
The face was so gentle, the room in such disorder,
not how I pictured a United States soldier.
Was this the hero of whom I'd just read?
Curled up on a poncho, the floor for a bed?

I realized the families that I saw this night,
owed their lives to these soldiers who were willing to fight.
Soon round the world, the children would play,
and grownups would celebrate a bright Christmas day.
They all enjoyed freedom each month of the year,
because of the soldiers, like the one lying here.

I couldn't help wonder how many lay alone,
on a cold Christmas eve in a land far from home.
The very thought brought a tear to my eye,
I dropped to my knees and started to cry.
The soldier awakened and I heard a rough voice,
"Santa don't cry, this life is my choice;

I fight for freedom, I don't ask for more,
my life is my God, my country, my corps."
The soldier rolled over and soon drifted to sleep,
I couldn't control it, I continued to weep.
I kept watch for hours, so silent and still,
and we both shivered from the cold evening's chill.

I didn't want to leave on that cold, dark, night,
this guardian of honor so willing to fight.
Then the soldier rolled over, with a voice soft and pure,
whispered, "Carry on Santa, it's Christmas day, all is secure."
One look at my watch, and I knew he was right.
"Merry Christmas my friend, and to all a good night."

By Lance Corporal James M. Schmidt

By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break
upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the
shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace.

— Luke 1:78-79



Pastor Paul Porter's Paragraphs

As I sit in my office looking at this computer screen, I think about the many saints who will read my inadequate words to express my feelings about this time of the year. You see, as I write these words, Thanksgiving has not been consumed yet. The cardiac arrest that is Christmas shopping has not begun. And best of all, we have not seen people's reactions to our presents, because that is important in our house.

This Thursday I will sit at the big person's table and pass around platters of wonderful food at my mother's home, and I will think about how blessed I am. And what comes to mind is Psalm 100 the old King James translation:

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands.

Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing.

Know ye that the Lord He is God: It is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people.

Enter into his gates with Thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, bless His name.

For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.

Please remember every day, be it Thanksgiving or every day of December. Remember the Apostle Paul's words to the church at Philippi:

Philippians 1: 3 I thank my God every time I remember you.

⁴ In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy

⁵ because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.

May God bless and keep you until we meet again,

Pastor Paul Porter

GREETERS/USHERS

If you are interested in joining this effort please contact **Ron McDougle**.

December 2 The Youth

December 9 Glenda and Perry Penn

December 16 Bill and Shirley Wilkins

December 23 Norma Shotts and Carol Camp

December 30 To Be Determined



"Christmas From the Backside"

J. Ellsworth Kalas has written a whole series of books with the theme "From the Backside". He gives a whole different meaning to what the subject is about and a different perspective that adds meaning for our day. So, I want to share some of his thoughts on Christmas with you.

If you poll the average shopper in a mall about what Christmas is about, you'll probably get answers like, "Home for the Holidays", or "Getting together with friends", or even "Peace on Earth". These are all nice ideas but they are hardly what Christmas is all about. There is *infinitely* more to the Christmas story.

"There are wonderful surprises in the Christmas story. You wouldn't think that Christmas came to a back fence, a hotel, a think-tank. So it's exciting to see that God did, indeed, choose to unfold the Christmas story in such unlikely places. It's a reminder that God can't be programmed, and that the grace of God can't be predicted. God is God, and God's ways are past our finding out."

"Wherever else Christmas might or might not come, it will come to the people who have built an altar in their hearts. It's not enough to find Christmas for ourselves, not enough that we should be swept up in its love and beauty; more than that, we should bring its gladness to others."

"While God can be found any number of places, and while God is not about to be fenced in by our expectations, the Bible makes clear that God is found by those who seek him. And at its best, the church is just that: a body of people who are seeking to please God and to do God's will. They're not perfect, but they've caught the message and they're seeking to bring it to pass." So I leave as Lay Leader with this above message in mind, and hope that you too will, in the coming year, seek God's will for your lives and pass the message on to others!

Marlis Cuthbertson-Lay Leader 2012

CHOIR AND YOU!



We will have choir practice Wednesday, December 12th and Wednesday, December 19th at 6:00 in the choir room. All are welcome.

Sue Human—Music Director

TRUSTEE COMMITTEE

The Trustee Committee met on November 6th to discuss several items.

Several repairs that need to be completed were addressed.

The concern regarding the pond behind Terry Hall was addressed. The pond is a breeding place for mosquitoes safety issues. The pond needs to be drained and filled in.

Plans and options for the new annex were reviewed. The original plan seems to be the best.

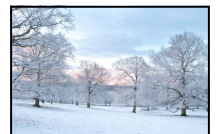
The findings were forwarded to the Finance Committee for consideration and to set a date to start construction.

Ron McDougle Chair of Trustee

THE CENTER

Come,
thaw us in,
hold us together
while we wait for the birth of the Light of
lights, the One who will guide us into the world anew. Amen.

— Pamela C. Hawkins



FOOD BANK DONATIONS

FIRST SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH



As we enter into the season of our Saviors' birth, we remember how He lived and taught by example of giving and service to others. We are blessed here at Edom UMC with disciples who follow our Lord's teaching and demonstrate their love daily by serving others.

The People That Love Center, our area Food Bank, is always grateful for our continuing food donations. Thank you, Perry and Glenda Penn, for obtaining and delivering bread items to the Food Bank during November. The recipients of the bakery goods were overjoyed and very appreciative.

All donations are accepted and needed by the Food Bank.

Suggested non-perishable food: Cereals, Sugar, Flour, Box Meals (mac & cheese, spaghetti, Hamburger Helper); Rice, Beans also Canned Goods, Dry & Can Milk. Cereal and Box Meals continue to be in short supply.

Donation baskets are located in the Church Foyer and Terry Hall for your convenience. You may also donate anytime during the month.

Merry Christmas!

Carol Camp – Food Bank Liaison

Come Forth!

Joyce Carrasco

Come forth Advent!

Come as a twinkling guest ever giving and forgiving.

Come as a dancing flame proclaiming the adventure.

Come as the guiding light of patience, love, and forgiveness.

Come as the sweet light of breaking dawn.

Come as quite, sweet golden twilight.

Come as the twinkle in God's eye brightening our world!

Come as eternal love and promise of the season.

O come, O come,

Come and be welcomed.

YOUTH

The Youth Group is doing well. We have been surviving in our one little class room with 8 to 11 youth during the last several months. We are shoulder to shoulder in the class room. As you can imagine, this crowded condition is not conducive to learning.

We would like to split the class into two age groups. However with the lack of space we are at a loss as what to do. We so need to find a better way to get the message of Christ to these great young people. We are on the verge of desperation. What do you think we should do?

Our UMYF group is loads of fun, even though we do get a bit noisy at times and the craft projects do not always get finished in one Sunday. There is no space to store unfinished projects and cleanup sometimes takes as much time as doing the project.

Our appreciation goes to those who have been providing lunch for the youth. The "Lunch Sign-up Sheet" is posted in Terry Hall. If you haven't had the opportunity to provide a lunch yet, look the sheet over and select a date to provide lunch for the youth. It does not take much to do one of these lunches.

At our last conference Bishop Huie made a statement that holds true in our church. She said, "Being a Methodist Christian makes a difference in individual lives." At Edom United Methodist Church we have 20-25 children and youth every Sunday. They have made a difference in the life our church. We can make a difference in the lives of these children. The youth program is at the center of our mission here at Edom UMC. They are such a blessing to the community.

Ron McDougale and Kathy Kendrick -Youth leaders



Answers to Christmas Bible Trivia

1. Two months
2. Herod
3. Actual date is unknown
4. Isaiah

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